



Third quarter accounts

A reminder that customers have until **midday Friday 4 April** to transfer delivery entitlements in order to offset the Casual Usage Fee (which applies where water use is greater than 120 percent of delivery entitlements on a landholding or consolidated account) for third quarter accounts. SMS alerts were sent last week to those customers at risk of incurring the casual usage fee.

If in doubt about whether you need additional delivery entitlements to avoid paying the Casual Usage Fee, please contact Water Trade staff via reception on T. 1300 138 265.

Water ordering reminder

Due to recent rainfall, customers are reminded that to avoid a potential delay in water delivery to place your irrigation orders well in advance. Customers are reminded that a minimum of four days' notice (day one is for orders received before 6.30am) is required in advance to guarantee delivery.

Orders are often delivered in less than four days as a result of other customers' finishing, freeing up capacity in our system.

National Irrigators' Council

Murray Irrigation Director, Tim McKindlay attended the National Irrigators' Council meeting in Griffith last week and heard from Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, Senator Simon Birmingham, about the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The Senator reconfirmed his commitment to cap entitlement buyback at 1,500GL, and is also reviewing other areas of funding for water recovery. He outlined the upcoming review of the operations of the *Water Act 2007* clarifying that it is not a review into the Basin Plan or the purposes of the Act, but rather an opportunity to identify areas to both reduce the regulatory burden and improve the effectiveness of the Act.

The meeting also heard that a lot of work is underway to finalise business plans for projects to realise the 650GL in offsets with Council noting that the Sustainable Diversion Limit adjustment mechanism is a critical issue to monitor and be mindful of unintended consequences.

CSG applications rejected

The NSW Government has rejected five Petroleum Exploration Licence Applications (PELAs) in the Riverina, including areas to the north and west of Deniliquin, within the Murray Irrigation area of operations. NSW Resources Minister, Anthony Roberts, said Grainger Energy submitted a "manifestly deficient application".

The Minister also said that the company, formed just six days before submitting its applications, has no history of conducting exploration activities, does not have a technical understanding of the existing geological information in the region, and lacks the financial and technical capabilities required to undertake the proposed work program. The Minister's media release can be accessed via www.csg.nsw.gov.au/media-releases

Tuppal Creek Environmental Flows

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) advises that environmental flows into the Tuppal Creek commenced last week from the Murray Irrigation Tocumwal Main Escape. Up to 1,500ML of NSW and Commonwealth environmental water has been made available for the event. The flow rates are designed to remain in-channel to provide a flush through the Creek to improve water quality and provide connectivity between remnant pools and maintain water depths.

If you have any questions please contact Emma Wilson, OEH on M. 0418 962 697.

Water Infrastructure Ministerial Working Group

Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce will chair a new ministerial working group set up to identify projects to deliver Australia's future water supply needs. The group, which includes the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for the Environment, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and the Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, is tasked with identifying priorities for water and infrastructure needs. The group will look at opportunities to upgrade existing infrastructure or new projects including dams or harvesting options. Minister Joyce's press release: <http://www.maff.gov.au/Pages/Media%20Releases/australia-future-water-needs.aspx>

Anthony Couroupis, General Manager

Announced allocation

Class C General Security 100%
Water Efficiency Allocation 9 %
(Efficiency Allocation on Delivery Entitlements)

Water availability and usage

(25/03/14)
Vol. Remaining % of Entitlements 27 %
On-Farm (incl. WEX Volume)
On-Farm Balance 235 GL
On-Farm Usage 881 GL
(Including Off-Allocation Usage of .. 88 GL)

Water exchange

8.30am today
Water for Sale 8,205 ML
Price Range \$74 - \$149
Buy Offer \$67
Yesterday's Sales 550 ML
Price Range \$72 - \$75
To buy water call 1300 781 431

Water use and trade data

25/03/14 – 31/03/14

Murray Water Exchange activity

Internal buyers (No. & ML) 22; 2,355ML
External buyers (No. & ML) 1; 150ML
Internal sellers (No. & ML) 19; 1,551ML
External sellers (No. & ML) 2; 954ML

Trade to and from licence (excl. Govt.)

Net trade +1,395ML (week) +16,623ML (YTD)

Crop weekly water use

ML used on farm 16GL (55% on annual pasture)

Channel flows today (ML/day)

	Actual	Capacity
Mulwala Canal	2,000	10,000
Wakool Canal	650	2,350
Escape flows	49	3,250

Rainfall and evaporation

25/03/14 – 31/03/14 Rain Evap
Finley 30.2mm 29mm
Tullakool 14.4mm 28mm

Storages

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Dartmouth 3,441 GL 89 %
Hume 1,104 GL 37 %
Lake Victoria 432 GL 64 %
Menindee Lakes 388 GL 22 %
Active Storage 5,365 GL 58 %

Rivers

8.30am today (mdba.gov.au)
Murray @ Doctors Point 8,338 ML/d
Murray d/s Yarra Weir 6,580 ML/d
Goulburn @ McCoy's Bridge ... 3,198 ML/d
M'Bidgee d/s Balranald 188 ML/d
Darling @ Burtundy 266 ML/d
Flow to SA 6,576 ML/d
Murray to the Sea N/A

**Tune into 'On The Land' every
Tuesday from 6.45am on 1521 2QN.**